

IN THE CLAIMS

Listing of Claims:

1-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) An absorbent article, comprising:

a topsheet having a surface adapted to face a body, said topsheet comprising a porous material and having medicinal composition applied in a pattern upon said surface of the topsheet in an effective amount, wherein said medicinal composition is adjacent and in contact with said porous material and wherein said pattern comprises a matrix of discrete segments, each discrete segment having a volume of between about 3 picoliters and about 400 nanoliters; and

an absorbent material positioned adjacent said topsheet.

15. (Previously Presented) The absorbent article of Claim 14, wherein the article further comprises a backsheet; and

wherein the absorbent material is positioned between said topsheet and said backsheet.

16. (Previously Presented) The absorbent article of Claim 14, wherein said discrete segments have a substantially semicircular cross-section extending above said surface of the topsheet.

17. (Previously Presented) The absorbent article of Claim 14, wherein said discrete segments are positioned upon said surface of the topsheet in a frequency of between about 1 Hz and about 100 kHz.

18. (Previously Presented) The absorbent article of Claim 14, wherein said discrete segments are located only upon selected regions of said surface of the topsheet.

19. (Previously Presented) The absorbent article of Claim 14, wherein said pattern comprises discrete segments located only within spaced lines extending across said surface of the topsheet and wherein said lines have a width less than about 4 mm.

20. (Previously Presented) The absorbent article of Claim 14, wherein the medicinal composition includes a filler.

21. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 14, wherein the absorbent article comprises one or more components of a personal care product.

22. (Original) The absorbent article of Claim 21, wherein the personal care product is selected from a diaper, training pant, absorbent underpant, adult incontinence product, sanitary wipe, wet wipe, feminine hygiene product, wound dressing, nursing pad, time release patch, bandage, mortuary product, veterinary product, hygiene and absorbent product.

23-43. (Cancelled)

44. (Previously Presented) The absorbent article of Claim 14 wherein each discrete segment has a volume of between about 3 picoliters to about 200 picoliters.

45. (Previously Presented) The absorbent article of Claim 14 wherein said medicinal composition has a viscosity in the range of from about 1 centipoise to about 300 centipoise when said medicinal composition is applied in a pattern upon said surface of the topsheet.

46. (Previously Presented) The absorbent article of Claim 14 wherein said medicinal composition has a viscosity in the range of from about 4 centipoise to about 50 centipoise when said medicinal composition is applied in a pattern upon said surface of the topsheet.

47. (Withdrawn) The absorbent article of Claim 14 wherein said medicinal composition has a melting point of at least about 25°C.

48. (Withdrawn) The absorbent article of Claim 14 wherein said medicinal composition has a melting point between about 30°C and 100°C.

49. (Withdrawn) The absorbent article of Claim 14 wherein said medicinal composition has a melting point between about 40°C and 80°C.

50. (Withdrawn) The absorbent article of Claim 14 said medicinal composition has a shear viscosity of from about 50 to about 1,000,000 centipoise at a temperature of about 60°C.

51. (Withdrawn) The absorbent article of Claim 14 wherein said medicinal composition has a shear viscosity of from about 50,000 to about 800,000 centipoise at a temperature of about 60°C.

52. (Previously Presented) The absorbent article of Claim 14 wherein said medicinal composition is applied upon said surface of the topsheet as a melted liquid to form said pattern comprising discrete segments.

53. (Previously Presented) The absorbent article of Claim 52 wherein the discrete segments are formed by allowing the melted liquid to cool and solidify on said surface of the topsheet.

54. (Withdrawn) An absorbent article, comprising:
a topsheet having a surface adapted to face a body, said topsheet comprising a porous material and having medicinal composition applied in a pattern upon the surface adapted to face a body wherein said pattern comprises discrete segments having a volume of between about 3 picoliters and about 400 nanoliters.

55. (Withdrawn) The absorbent article of Claim 54 wherein each of said individual discrete segments has a volume that range from about 3 picoliters to about 200 picoliters.

56. (Withdrawn) The absorbent article of Claim 54 wherein said discrete segments have substantially semicircular cross-sections that extend above the topsheet.

57. (Withdrawn) The absorbent article of Claim 54 wherein said discrete segments are applied to the topsheet at viscosity in the range of from about 1 centipoise to about 300 centipoise.

58. (Withdrawn) The absorbent article of Claim 54 wherein said discrete segments are applied to the topsheet at viscosity in the range of from about 4 centipoise to about 50 centipoise.

59. (Withdrawn) The absorbent article of Claim 54 wherein the topsheet comprises a surface that is adapted to face a body and the discrete segments are applied to the surface that is adapted to face a body and do not substantially migrate into or through the topsheet.

60. (Withdrawn) The absorbent article of Claim 54 wherein the discrete segments comprise a medicament selected from the group consisting of astringents, antiseptic agents, antioxidants, antimicrobial agents, antifungal agents, deodorants, enzyme inhibitors, emollients, and skin protectants.

61. (Withdrawn) The absorbent article of Claim 54 wherein the discrete segments have a melting point of at least about 25°C.

62. (Withdrawn) The absorbent article of Claim 54 wherein the discrete segments have a melting point between about 30°C and 100°C.

63. (Withdrawn) The absorbent article of Claim 54 wherein the discrete segments have a melting point between about 40°C and 80°C.

64. (Withdrawn) The absorbent article of Claim 54 wherein the discrete segments have a shear viscosity of from about 50 to about 1,000,000 centipoise at a temperature of about 60°C.

65. (Withdrawn) The absorbent article of Claim 54 wherein the discrete segments have a shear viscosity of from about 50,000 to about 800,000 centipoise at a temperature of about 60°C.

66. (Withdrawn) The absorbent article of Claim 54 wherein the discrete segments have a penetration hardness between about 5 and about 350 millimeters.

67. (Withdrawn) The absorbent article of Claim 54 wherein the discrete segments have a penetration hardness between about 5 and about 150 millimeters.

68. (Withdrawn) The absorbent article of Claim 54 wherein the discrete segments comprise from about 10 to about 90 weight percent of a hydrophilic solvent, from about 5 to about 90 weight percent of a polyethylene glycol and from about 20 to about 60 weight percent of a fatty alcohol.

69. (Withdrawn) The absorbent article of Claim 54 wherein the discrete segments comprise from about 5 to about 95 weight percent of an emollient, from about 5 to about 95 weight percent of a solidifying agent and, from 0 to about 25 weight percent of a viscosity enhancer.

70. (Withdrawn) The absorbent article of Claim 54 wherein the topsheet comprises from about 0.05 mg/cm^2 to about 50 mg/cm^2 of the discrete segments.

71. (Withdrawn) The absorbent article of Claim 54 wherein the topsheet comprises from about 1 mg/cm^2 to about 20 mg/cm^2 of the discrete segments.

72. (Withdrawn) The absorbent article of Claim 54 wherein the topsheet comprises a surface that is adapted to face a body and the discrete segments are uniformly present on the surface that is adapted to face a body and the amount of discrete segments varies by less than about 5 percent from the average amount of discrete segments per square centimeter.

73. (Withdrawn) The absorbent article of Claim 54 wherein the topsheet comprises a surface that is adapted to face a body and the discrete segments are uniformly present on the surface that is adapted to face a body and the amount of discrete segments varies by less than about 2 percent from the average amount of discrete segments per square centimeter.

74. (Withdrawn) The absorbent article of Claim 54 wherein the topsheet comprises a surface that is adapted to face a body and the discrete segments are present on the surface that is adapted to face a body at a frequency between about 10 and 100 segments per square centimeter.

75. (Withdrawn) The absorbent article of Claim 54 wherein the topsheet comprises a surface that is adapted to face a body and the discrete segments comprise a medicament applied as a melted liquid to the surface that is adapted to face a body.

76. (Withdrawn) The absorbent article of Claim 75 wherein the discrete segments are formed by allowing the melted liquid to cool and solidify on surface that is adapted to face a body.

77. (Withdrawn) The absorbent article of Claim 54 further comprising a backsheet and an absorbent material positioned between said backsheet and said topsheet.